

Senate Resolution 94

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Chance of the 16th, Douglas of the 17th, Staton of the 18th, Thomas of the 54th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Renal Coalition and recognizing January 31, 2007, as "Georgia
2 Dialysis Day" in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 12,600 Georgia residents suffer from kidney failure and rely on
4 dialysis services to function; and

5 WHEREAS, African Americans make up 70 percent of those relying on dialysis as life
6 sustaining treatment and made up 58 percent of new patients starting dialysis in Georgia in
7 2005; and

8 WHEREAS, 39 percent of Georgia kidney failure patients suffer from diabetes, and 35 percent
9 suffer from high blood pressure; and

10 WHEREAS, there are over 69,000 patients waiting for kidney transplants in the United States,
11 and 1,534 of these patients live in Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, because kidney transplantation is severely limited due to a shortage of suitable
13 donors, organ transplant rejection, and the age and health of many end stage renal disease
14 patients, most patients must remain on dialysis for the remainder of their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, there is no coordinated effort between federal and state governments, health care
16 professionals, dialysis providers, educators, and patient advocates to develop programs to
17 identify members of high risk populations and implement programs to improve the
18 management of chronic kidney disease and slow the progression to end stage renal disease; and

19 WHEREAS, Medicaid in Georgia only covers about 74 percent of the costs of providing
20 dialysis treatment, and most end stage renal disease patients rely on medicare and Medicaid
21 for their health care needs; and

1 WHEREAS, early intervention strategies can successfully delay or prevent dialysis dependence
2 for those with chronic kidney disease; and

3 WHEREAS, delaying the need for dialysis will not only significantly enhance quality of life,
4 it will also significantly reduce health care expenditures for the medicare and Medicaid
5 programs, private insurers, and patients.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body join
7 in commending the Georgia Renal Coalition for its responsible leadership and commitment
8 to the citizens of Georgia.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body hereby recognize January 31,
10 2007, as "Georgia Dialysis Day" in the State of Georgia.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to
12 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Renal Coalition.